

New Mexico Interagency Coordinating Group



March 6, 2009

Directed To: New Mexico Zone Chairs

From: Chair, New Mexico Interagency Coordinating Group (NMICG)

Topic/Issue: Zone Fuels Project Collaboration Documentation & Smoke Lists (REPLY REQUIRED)

The National Fire Plan, the Hazard Fuels Initiative, the Hazard Fuels Restoration Act, and various agreements signed by DOI, the USFS, and the National Association of State Foresters have emphasized and mandated that all agencies do a higher level of collaboration on all fuels treatment projects. To help ensure that interagency fuels collaboration as well as smoke management coordination is occurring at the local levels, the Southwest Coordinating Group (SWCG) has directed each zone to report their fuels/smoke collaborative planning efforts to the New Mexico Interagency Coordinating Group (NMICG) annually.

2009 Zone Smoke Coordination Plans and Completion of Zone Smoke List – Due June 1, 2009

During your spring meeting, you should review and update your Zone Smoke Coordination Plan as needed. Things to consider in your plan update include: life of the plan (minimum of 3 years, maximum of 5 with a yearly review), air sheds listed for each agency in the zone, possible coordination with neighboring zones outside of NM (AZ, CO and TX), as well as the annual smoke operational plan that will list your zone's planned prescribed fires for the 2009 calendar year.

To help the zones complete their 2009 smoke operational plans, the NMICG chair will compile the project data submitted to the NMED Air Quality Bureau smoke management database for CY2009 and prepare a map and prescribed fire list for each zone. Each zone will receive the list and map no later than April 1st. The zone partners will then need to update and validate the list. Keep in mind, zones should use these operational plans for coordination when planning actual burn dates to minimize the smoke impacts to local and surrounding communities.

Once finalized, a signed electronic copy (by the zone chair) of your 2009 Zone Smoke Coordination Plan with the completed Smoke Operational Plan should be sent to your NMICG zone representative and to Claudia Standish, DOI Smoke Specialist, to have on file at the NMED Air Quality Bureau smoke desk no later than June 1, 2009. New Mexico State Forestry will then be responsible for posting the zone operational smoke plans and lists to their website.

FY10 Zone Level Collaborative Fuels Lists – Due Nov. 1, 2009

Congress continues to hold agencies ever more accountable, thus it is extremely important that we follow national policy and show that our fuels dollars are being spent on the highest priority projects to reduce the risk of wildland fires in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and to protect/restore our sensitive ecosystems. *The Memorandum of Understanding for the Development of a Collaborative Fuels Treatment Program* (June 2003) provides the framework for the annual selection and prioritization of fuels treatment projects. Your FY10 Zone Fuels Collaborations List is due electronically by Nov. 1, 2009 to your NMICG zone representative.

To help the fuels collaboration reporting process, NMICG will work with each agency fuels leads to provide (by Oct. 1, 2009) the zone chair with lists of treatments planned for that zone for the upcoming fiscal year. Each zone will need to update and validate the list. See the *Fuels Collaboration 1.xlt* attachment for the recommended format. A map of all the state-wide treatments will be created and posted along with the zone lists by New Mexico State Forestry.

The following is a list of the NMICG members and the Zone they represent:

Taos Zone Representative – Donald Griego

Pecos Zone Representative – Jeff Hickerson

Santa Fe Zone Representative – Lisa Bye

Albuquerque Zone Representative – Emily Irwin

Gila Zone Representative – Chris Wilcox

Thanks for your cooperation. Feel free to call me at 505-438-7500, or vice-chair Hal Luedtke, 505-563-3303, or any NMICG agency representative if you have any questions.

/s/ Lisa Bye

Chair, New Mexico Interagency Coordinating Group